

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all previous claims, and listings of claims, in the application.

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The hyaluronic acid modification product according to claim 1 ~~3~~, wherein said block polymer is a polyethylene oxide-polypropylene oxide-polyethylene oxide block polymer or a polypropylene oxide-polyethylene oxide-polypropylene oxide block polymer.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~The hyaluronic acid modification product according to claim 1~~ A hyaluronic acid modification product, in which hyaluronic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is covalently bound to a block polymer, selected from polyethylene oxide-polypropylene oxide-polyethylene oxide block polymer, polypropylene oxide-polyethylene oxide-polypropylene oxide block polymer, polyethylene oxide-polylactic acid/polyglycolic acid copolymer-polyethylene oxide block polymer, polylactic acid/polyglycolic acid copolymer- polyethylene oxide-polylactic acid/polyglycolic acid copolymer block polymer, polyethylene oxide-polylactic acid-polyethylene oxide block polymer and polylactic acid-polyethylene oxide-polylactic acid block polymer wherein the phase transition temperature of said hyaluronic acid modification product in physiological saline and/or phosphate physiological saline

is in the range from 20°C to 35°C when the concentration of said hyaluronic acid modification product is 10% w/v or less, wherein the most part of said block polymer is bound to said hyaluronic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof at one of its the two ends of said block polymer.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~The hyaluronic acid modification product according to claim 1~~ A hyaluronic acid modification product, in which hyaluronic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is covalently bound to a block polymer, selected from polyethylene oxide-polypropylene oxide-polyethylene oxide block polymer, polypropylene oxide-polyethylene oxide-polypropylene oxide block polymer, polyethylene oxide-polylactic acid/polyglycolic acid copolymer-polyethylene oxide block polymer, polylactic acid/polyglycolic acid copolymer- polyethylene oxide-polylactic acid/polyglycolic acid copolymer block polymer, polyethylene oxide-polylactic acid-polyethylene oxide block polymer and polylactic acid-polyethylene oxide-polylactic acid block polymer wherein the phase transition temperature of said hyaluronic acid modification product in physiological saline and/or phosphate physiological saline is in the range from 20°C to 35°C when the concentration of said hyaluronic acid modification product is 10% w/v or less, wherein said block polymer is bound to said hyaluronic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof at only one of its the two ends of said block polymer.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The hyaluronic acid modification product according to claim 1 ~~3~~, wherein said block polymer is bound to the carboxyl group of said hyaluronic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The hyaluronic acid modification product according to claim 1 ~~3~~, wherein the weight average molecular weight of said block polymer is 1200 daltons or more.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The hyaluronic acid modification product according to claim 1 ~~3~~, wherein the ratio of introduction of said block polymer into the hyaluronic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is at least 8 mol % per the glucuronic acid in the hyaluronic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): ~~The hyaluronic acid modification product according to claim 1~~ A hyaluronic acid modification product, in which hyaluronic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is covalently bound to a block polymer, selected from polyethylene oxide-polypropylene oxide-polyethylene oxide block polymer, polypropylene oxide-polyethylene oxide-polypropylene oxide block polymer, polyethylene oxide-polylactic

acid/polyglycolic acid copolymer-polyethylene oxide block polymer, polylactic acid/polyglycolic acid copolymer- polyethylene oxide-polylactic acid/polyglycolic acid copolymer block polymer, polyethylene oxide-polylactic acid-polyethylene oxide block polymer and polylactic acid-polyethylene oxide-polylactic acid block polymer wherein the phase transition temperature of said hyaluronic acid modification product in physiological saline and/or phosphate physiological saline is in the range from 20°C to 35°C when the concentration of said hyaluronic acid modification product is 10% w/v or less, wherein the weight average molecular weight of said hyaluronic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is 1,500,000 daltons or less.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising the hyaluronic acid modification product according to claim 4 3 as an active ingredient.

Claim 11 (Cancelled).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The pharmaceutical preparation for treating joint diseases comprising the hyaluronic acid modification product according to claim 4 3 as an active ingredient, wherein the joint disease is loss of articular cartilage, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis or scapulo-humeral periarthritis.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 12, which is in ~~the~~ a form suitable to be filled in a syringe.

Claim 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An assisting or treating agent for surgical operation, comprising the hyaluronic acid modification product according to claim ~~1~~ 3 as its main component.

Claim 17 (Original): The assisting or treating agent according to claim 16, wherein the surgical operation is ophthalmic surgery or endoscopic mucosal resection.

Claim 18 (Cancelled).

Claim 19 (Cancelled).

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A tissue repairing agent comprising the hyaluronic acid modification product according to claim ~~1~~ 3 as an active ingredient.

Claim 21 (Original): The tissue repairing agent according to claim 20, which is used for repairing damage to soft tissue, atrophic irregularity after surgical operation, damage caused by Mohs' chemosurgical treatment, wrinkles or laceration scars in wrinkles.

Claim 22 (Cancelled).

Claim 23 (Cancelled).